IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

On page 1, the first paragraph, with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of ~~co-pending~~ Application Serial No. 09/892,378, filed June 26, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,757,520 issued June 29, 2004, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Selecting a Serving Sector in a Data Communication System" and currently assigned to the assignee of the present application.

On page 1, paragraph [1002], with the following paragraph:

Communication systems have been developed to allow transmission of information signals from an origination station to a physically distinct destination station. In transmitting information signal from the origination station over a communication channel, the information signal is first converted into a form suitable for efficient transmission over the communication channel. Conversion, or modulation, of the information [[signal]] signals involves varying a parameter of a carrier wave in accordance with the information signal in such a way that the spectrum of the resulting modulated carrier is confined within the communication channel bandwidth. At the destination station the original information signal is replicated from the modulated carrier wave received over the communication channel. Such a replication is generally achieved by using an inverse of the modulation process employed by the origination station.

On page 3, paragraph [1006], with the following paragraph:

An example of a data only communication system is a high data rate (HDR) communication system that conforms to the TIA/EIA/IS-856 industry standard, hereinafter referred to as the IS-856 standard. This HDR system is based on a communication system disclosed in ~~co-pending~~ application serial number 08/963,386, now U.S. Patent No. 6,571,211, issued on June 3, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HIGH RATE PACKET DATA TRANSMISSION," filed 11/3/1997, assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

The HDR communication system defines a set of data rates, ranging from 38.4 kbps to 2.4 Mbps, at which an access point (AP) may send data to a subscriber station (access terminal, AT). Because the AP is analogous to a base station, the terminology with respect to cells and sectors is the same as with respect to voice systems.

Beginning on page 3, paragraph [1007], with the following paragraph:

A significant difference between voice services and data services is the fact that the former imposes stringent and fixed delay requirements. Typically, the overall one-way delay of speech frames must be less than 100 ms. In contrast, the data delay can become a variable parameter used to optimize the efficiency of the data communication system. Specifically, more efficient error correcting coding techniques which require significantly larger delays than those that can be tolerated by voice services can be utilized. An exemplary efficient coding scheme for data is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/743,688, now U.S. Patent No. 5,933,462 issued August 3, 1999, entitled "SOFT DECISION OUTPUT DECODER FOR DECODING CONVOLUTIONALLY ENCODED CODEWORDS", filed November 6, 1996, assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

Beginning on page 4, paragraph [1009], with the following paragraph:

Yet another significant difference between voice services and data services is that the former requires a reliable communication link. When a mobile station, communicating with a first base station, moves to the edge of the associated cell or sector, the mobile station initiates a simultaneous communication with a second base station. This simultaneous communication, when the mobile station receives a signal carrying equivalent information from two base stations, termed soft ~~hand-off~~ handoff, is a process of establishing a communication link with the second base station while maintaining a communication link with the first base station. When the mobile station eventually leaves the cell or sector associated with the first base station, and breaks the communication link with the first base station, it continues the communication on the communication link established with the second base station. Because the soft ~~hand-off~~ handoff is a "make before break" mechanism, the soft-handoff minimizes the probability of dropped calls. The method and system for providing a communication with a mobile station through

more than one base station during the soft ~~hand-off~~ handoff process are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,267,261, entitled "MOBILE ASSISTED SOFT ~~HAND-OFF~~ HANDOFF IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM," assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff is the process whereby the communication occurs over multiple sectors that are serviced by the same base station. The process of softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff is described in detail in ~~co-pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/763,498, now U.S. Patent No. 5,933,781 issued August 3, 1999, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING ~~HAND-OFF~~ HANDOFF BETWEEN SECTORS OF A COMMON BASE STATION", filed December 11, 1996, assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Thus, both soft and softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff for voice services result in redundant transmissions from two or more base stations to improve reliability.

On page 5, paragraph [1010], with the following paragraph:

This additional reliability is not required for data transmission because the data packets received in error can be retransmitted. For data services, the parameters, which measure the quality and effectiveness of a data communication system, are the transmission delay required to transfer a data packet and the average throughput rate of the system. Transmission delay does not have the same impact in data communication as in voice communication, but the transmission delay is an important metric for measuring the quality of the data communication system. The average throughput rate is a measure of the efficiency of the data transmission capability of the communication system. Consequently, the transmit power and resources used to support soft ~~hand-off~~ handoff can be more efficiently used for transmission of additional data. To maximize the throughput, the transmitting sector should be chosen in a way that maximizes the forward link throughput as perceived by the AT.

Beginning on page 6, paragraph [1013], with the following paragraph:

In another aspect of the invention, the above stated needs are addressed by determining at the remote station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the remote station's list, a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the remote station's list, and directing communication between the remote station and one sector from the sectors in the remote

station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value.[[.]] The quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the remote station's list is determined by measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link. The forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the remote station's list is determined by ascertaining at the remote station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the remote station's list, processing at the remote station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one sector in the remote station's list, and determining at the remote station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for the at least one sector in the remote station's list. The communication between the remote station and one sector from the sectors in the remote station's list is directed by de-rating said determined forward link quality metrics in accordance with said determined forward link de-rating value, assigning credits to each sector in the remote station's list except the sector currently serving the remote station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric and directing communication between the remote station and one sector from the sectors in the remote station's list in accordance with said assigned credits.

On page 9, paragraph [1038], with the following paragraph:

The term soft ~~hand-off~~ handoff as used herein means a communication between a subscriber station and two or more sectors, wherein each sector belongs to a different cell. In the context of IS-95 standard, the reverse link communication is received by both sectors, and the forward link communication is simultaneously carried on the two or more sectors' forward links. In the context of the IS-856 standard, data transmission on the forward link is non-simultaneously carried out between one of the two or more sectors and the AT.

On page 10, paragraph [1039], with the following paragraph:

The term softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff as used herein means a communication between a subscriber station and two or more sectors, wherein each sector belongs to the same cell. In the context of the IS-95 standard, the reverse link communication is received by both sectors, and the forward link communication is simultaneously carried on one of the two or more sectors'

forward links. In the context of the IS-856 standard, data transmission on the forward link is non-simultaneously carried out between one of the two or more sectors and the AT.

On page 10, paragraph [1042], with the following paragraph:

The term soft/softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff delay as used herein to indicate the minimum interruption in service that a subscriber station would experience following a handoff to another sector. Soft/Softer handoff delay is determined based on whether the sector, (currently not serving the subscriber station), (non-serving sector) to which the subscriber station is re-pointing is part of the same cell as the current serving sector. If the non-serving sector is in the same cell as the serving sector then the softer handoff delay is used, and if the non-serving sector is in a cell different from the one that the serving sector is part of then the soft-handoff delay is used.

On page 10, paragraph [1043], with the following paragraph:

The term non-homogenous soft/softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff delay as used herein to indicate that the soft/softer ~~hand-off~~ handoff delays are sector specific and therefore may not uniform across the sectors of an Access Network.

On page 12, paragraph [1051], with the following paragraph:

The data to be transmitted to the AT 104 arrive at the controller 110. In accordance with one embodiment, the controller 110 sends the data to all APs in the AT 104 active set over the backhaul 112. In another embodiment, the controller 110 first determines, which AP was selected by the AT 104 as the serving AP, and then sends the data to the serving AP. The data are stored in a queue at the AP(s). A paging message is then sent by one or more APs to the AT 104 on respective control channels. The AT 104 demodulates and decodes the signals on one or more control channels to obtain the paging messages.

Beginning on page 12, paragraph [1052], with the following paragraph:

At each [[time]] time-slot, the AP can schedule data transmission to any of the ATs that received the paging message. An exemplary method for scheduling transmission is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,229,795, entitled "SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATING RESOURCES IN A

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," assigned to the assignee of the present invention. The AP uses the rate control information received from each AT in the DRC message to efficiently transmit forward link data at the highest possible rate. In accordance with one embodiment, the AP determines the data rate at which to transmit the data to the AT 104 based on the most recent value of the DRC message received from the AT 104. Additionally, the AP uniquely identifies a transmission to the AT 104 by using a spreading code which is unique to that mobile station. In the exemplary embodiment, this spreading code is the long pseudo noise (PN) code, which is defined by the IS-856 standard.

Beginning on page 13, paragraph [1054], with the following paragraph:

When the communication link between the AT 104 and the AP 100, operating in the variable rate mode, deteriorates below required reliability level, the AT 104 first attempts to determine whether communication with another AP in the variable rate mode supporting an acceptable rate data is possible. If the AT 104 ascertains such an AP (e.g., the AP 102), a re-pointing to the AP 102, therefore, to a different communication link occurs, and the data transmissions continue from the AP 102 in the variable rate mode. The above-mentioned deterioration of the communication link can be caused by, e.g., the AT 104 moving from a coverage area of the AP 100 to the coverage area of the AP 102, shadowing, fading, and other reasons known to one skilled in the art. Alternatively, when a communication link between the AT 104 and another AP (e.g., the AP 102) that may achieve higher throughput rate [[that]] <u>than</u> the currently used communication link becomes available, a re-pointing to the AP 102, therefore, to a different communication link occurs, and the data transmissions continue from the AP 102 in the variable rate mode. If the AT 104 fails to detect an AP that can operate in the variable rate mode and support an acceptable data rate, the AT 104 transitions into a fixed rate mode.

On page 14, paragraph [1057], with the following paragraph:

In the exemplary embodiment, the above described the fixed rate mode and associated methods for transition to and from [[the]] fixed mode are similar to those disclosed in detail in U.S. ~~Application~~ <u>Patent</u> No. 6,205,129, entitled " METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARIABLE AND FIXED FORWARD LINK RATE CONTROL IN A MOBILE RADIO

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ", assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Other fixed rate modes and associated methods for transition to and from the fixed mode can also be contemplated and are within the scope of the present invention.

Beginning on page 14, paragraph [1059], with the following paragraph:

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary forward link waveform **200**. For pedagogical reasons, the waveform **200** is modeled after a forward link waveform of the above-mentioned HDR system. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the teaching is applicable to different waveforms. Thus, for example, in accordance with one embodiment the waveform does not need to contain pilot signal bursts, and the pilot signal can be transmitted on a separate channel, which can be continuous or bursty. The forward link **200** is defined in terms of frames. A frame is a structure comprising 16 time-slots **202**, each time-slot **202** being 2048 chips long, corresponding to a 1.66 ms. time-slot duration, and, consequently, a [[26.66]] 26.56 ms. frame duration. Each time-slot **202** is divided into two half-time-slots **202a**, **202b**, with pilot bursts **204a**, **204b** transmitted within each half-time-slot **202a**, **202b**. In the exemplary embodiment, each pilot burst **204a**, **204b** is 96 chips long, and is centered at the mid-point of its associated half-time-slot **202a**, **202b**. The pilot bursts **204a**, **204b** comprise a pilot channel signal covered by a Walsh cover with index 0. A forward medium access control channel (MAC) **206** forms two bursts, which are transmitted immediately before and immediately after the pilot burst **204** of each half-time-slot **202**. In the exemplary embodiment, the MAC is composed of up to 64 code channels, which are orthogonally covered by 64-ary Walsh codes. Each code channel is identified by a MAC index, which has a value between 1 and 64, and identifies a unique 64-ary Walsh cover. A reverse power control channel (RPC) is used to regulate the power of the reverse link signals for each subscriber station. One of the available MAC indices between 5 and 63 is used for reverse link power control for each subscriber station. MAC index 4 is used for a reverse activity channel (RA), which performs load control on the reverse traffic channel. The forward link traffic channel and control channel payload is sent in the remaining portions **208a** of the first half-time-slot **202a** and the remaining portions **208b** of the second half-time-slot **202b**.

On page 15, paragraph [1060], with the following paragraph:

In accordance with one embodiment, a re-pointing decision is made by an AT in accordance with conditions of a forward link and a reverse link. As described above, the AT determines a forward link quality metric directly, e.g., by measuring the forward link SINR. Similarly, a reverse link quality metric [[of]] may comprise, e.g., a reverse link SINR, a bit-error-rate and/or a packet-error-rate or a DRC erasure rate.

On page 16, paragraph [1061], with the following paragraph:

As discussed, the AT identifies a serving sector of a particular sector and transmits a DRC message on a DRC channel on a reverse link. The reverse link carrying the DRC messages between the AT and the serving sector is subject to various factors that change characteristics of a communication channel through which the DRC messages travel. In wireless communication systems, these factors comprise, but are not limited to: fading, noise, interference from other terminals, and other factors known to one of ordinary skills in the art. The DRC message is protected against the changing characteristics of the communication channel by various methods, e.g., message length selection, encoding, symbol repetition, interleaving, transmission power, and other methods know to one of ordinary skill in the art. However, these methods impose performance penalties, e.g., increased overhead, thus, decreased throughput, increased power consumption, increased peak-to-average power, increased power amplifier back-off, more expensive power amplifiers, and other penalties known to one skilled in the art. Therefore, an engineering compromise between a reliability of message delivery and an amount of overhead must be made. Consequently, the conditions of the communication channel can degrade to the point at which the serving sector possibly cannot decode (erases) some of the DRC messages. Therefore, the DRC erasure rate is directly related to the conditions affecting the reverse link, and the DRC erasure rate is a good quality metric of the reverse link. A method and an apparatus utilizing the DRC erasure rate are disclosed in detail in ~~co-pending~~ Application No. 09/892,378, now U.S. Patent No. 6,757,520 issued June 29, 2004, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING A SERVING SECTOR IN A DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM", filed June 26, 2001, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

Beginning on page 17, paragraph [1066], with the following paragraph:

On the reverse link, each transmitting AT acts as a source of interference to all other ATs in the communication system. To minimize interference on the reverse link and maximize capacity, transmit power of each AT is controlled by three power control loops (Open Loop, Closed Loop and Outer Loop). In the exemplary embodiment, the power control loops are similar to that of the CDMA system disclosed in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,056,109, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION POWER IN A CDMA CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE SYSTEM," and in ~~co-pending~~ Application No. 09/615,355, now U.S. Patent No. 6,876,866 issued April 5, 2005, entitled "MULTI-STATE POWER CONTROL MECHANISM FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," filed July 13, 2000, both assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Other power control mechanism can also be contemplated and are within the scope of the present invention. In the present invention, each sector receiving reverse link from particular ATs transmits RPC bits to each of such ATs on a power control channel of the sector's forward link. In the exemplary embodiment, the power control channel is similar to that of the HDR system disclosed in detail in the IS-856 standard. Other power control channels can also be contemplated and are within the scope of the present invention. In the exemplary embodiment, the power control channel comprises up to 64 orthogonal channels, which are spread with 16-chip Walsh covers. Each [[Walsh]] power-channel transmits one RPC bit at periodic intervals. Each active AT is assigned an RPC index which defines the Walsh cover and QPSK modulation phase (e.g. in-phase or quadrature) for transmission of the RPC bit stream destined for that AT. Because the RPC bits correlate to a condition of the reverse link as determined by a sector, the RPC bits are used by the AT to estimate the reverse link quality metric.

On page 19, paragraph [1069], with the following paragraph:

The processed (filtered) RPC estimate (mean) is used to estimate a DRC erasure rate. The relationship between the filtered RPC mean and the DRC erasure rate is very complex and depends on several variables, e.g., type of channel (Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN), Rayleigh, Rician), frequency selective fading, doppler rate, shadowing, and other variables known to one of ordinary skills in the art. Therefore, an engineering compromise between an

actual relationship and an implementation approximation must be made. For example, curve C in FIG. 3 illustrates a typical relationship between a filtered RPC mean and a DRC erasure rate for a slow fading communication channel, as determined by a measurement. Curves A1, A2, and A3 illustrate embodiments of approximation that have been determined to be a good compromise between the actual relationship and implementation approximation. In accordance with another embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 4, the relationship between filtered RPC mean and a DRC erasure rate is approximated by a step function A4 with a step at an RPC threshold T_RPC. In accordance with one embodiment, the T_RPC is selected so that if the filtered RPC mean from a particular sector is greater than the T_RPC, the DRC erasure rate is at levels that prevent the AT from receiving satisfactory service on the forward link in terms of delays and throughput. One of ordinary skills in the art understands that satisfactory service is application dependent. Therefore, service resulting in outages may be intolerable, [[in]] e.g., <u>in</u> real-time applications, although the outages may be tolerable in non-real time applications, e.g., ftp. In accordance with one embodiment, the default RPC threshold T_RPC equals to 0.95, as determined by simulation, laboratory testing, measurements, and other means known to one skilled in the art.

On page 21, paragraph [1079], with the following paragraph:

In step **514**, the inquiry is made whether the sector identified by the variable Count is the current serving sector as re-pointed to in step [[**518**]] <u>**508**</u>. If the test is positive, the method continues in step **518**, otherwise, the method continues in step **516**.

On page 23, paragraph [1096], with the following paragraph:

In step **624**, a value of the variable Cand identified by the variable Count is set to 1 and the value of the variable ~~Cand_NS~~ <u>NS_COUNT</u> is incremented by 1. The method continues in step **628**.

On page 24, paragraph [1105], with the following paragraph:

In step **710**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 1. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ <u>Initialization</u> phase.

On page 24, paragraph [1106], with the following paragraph:

In step **712**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 0. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ <u>Initialization</u> phase.

On page 28, paragraph [1125], with the following paragraph:

In step **1024**, a value of the variable Cand identified by the variable Count is set to 1 and the value of the variable ~~Cand_NS~~ <u>NS_COUNT</u> is incremented by 1. The method continues in step 1028.

On page 29, paragraph [1132], with the following paragraph:

In step **1102**, the value of [[a]] <u>the</u> variable SS_RPC is compared against the T_RPC. If the value of the variable SS_RPC is less than the value of the T_ RPC, the method continues in step **1104**; otherwise, the method continues in step **1106**.

On page 30, paragraph [1137], with the following paragraph:

In step **1112**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 1. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ <u>Initialization</u> phase.

On page 30, paragraph [1138], with the following paragraph:

In step **1114**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 0. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ <u>Initialization</u> phase.

On page 30, paragraph [1141], with the following paragraph:

In step **1120**, the AT re-points the DRC to the candidate sector <u>with the</u> highest quality reverse link in accordance with the sector's reverse link's filtered RPC mean. Alternatively, the AT re-points the DRC to the candidate sector that has the highest quality forward link (not shown). The method continues in step 1112.

On page 30, paragraph [1142], with the following paragraph:

In step **1122**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 1. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ Initialization phase.

On page 31, paragraph [1144], with the following paragraph:

FIG. 13 illustrates a relationship between filtered RPC mean and a forward link de-rating in accordance with this embodiment. If the reverse link filtered RPC mean associated with a particular sector is greater than the T_RPC, the forward link filtered SINR mean associated with the given sector is decreased (de-rated) by a first pre-determined factor (FL_D1). The forward link filtered SINR stays de-rated, until the filtered RPC mean of the particular sector decreases below the second T_RPC_S. Conversely, if the reverse link filtered RPC mean associated with a particular sector is less than the T_RPC_S, the forward link filtered SINR mean associated with the given sector is de-rated by a second pre-determined factor ~~(FL_D1)~~ (FL_D2) until the reverse link filtered RPC mean associated with the particular sector is greater than the [[T_RPC]] T_RPC_S.

On page 31, paragraph [1145], with the following paragraph:

Referring back to **FIG. 10** the above-described hysteresis method affects the mapping of step [[**506**]] **1006**.

On page 32, paragraph [1147], with the following paragraph:

As discussed, in accordance with one embodiment of the communication system of FIG. 1, data transmission on the forward link occurs from one sector to one AT during a time-slot at or near the maximum data rate that can be supported by the forward link and the communication system. At each time time-slot, the sector can schedule data transmission to any of the ATs that received the paging message. The sector uses the rate control information received from each AT in the DRC message to efficiently transmit forward link data at the highest possible rate. Consequently, the scheduling algorithm serves the AT from which the sector received a valid DRC if the DRC from a particular AT has been erased. The scheduling thus prevents degradation in forward link sector throughput as long as the DRC erasure rate from ATs served by the sector

is below a threshold (T_DRC). In one embodiment the threshold has been determined based on simulations, lab tests, field trials and other means known to one skilled in the art to be 0.4. This knowledge is not exploited in the re-pointing method based on RPC, which can lead to a sub-optimal communication system performance as explained [[in]] with reference to **FIG. 14**, which illustrates a relation between a filtered RPC mean and a DRC erasure rate for a slow-fading communication channel (curve marked "C"). Referring to **FIG. 14**:

Beginning on page 32, paragraph [1150], with the following paragraph:

The above-mentioned issues pertaining to the regions B2 and C1 can be addressed by various methods. In accordance with one embodiment, a re-pointing method utilizing a DRC lock indicator described in the above-mentioned ~~co-pending application serial number 09/829,378~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,757,520 issued June 29, 2004, does not use the filtered RPC means to determine when the AT is to re-point; consequently, the issues pertaining to the regions B2 and C2 are eliminated. However, the AT may potentially re-point to a sector, which is also in region C1. Therefore, in accordance with one embodiment, a re-pointing method utilizing a DRC lock indicator in combination with a filtered RPC is used.

Beginning on page 33, paragraph [1153], with the following paragraph:

In accordance with one embodiment, the decision whether to re-point is made in accordance with the DRC Lock Bit. The decision to which of the non-serving sectors to re-point is made in accordance with the above-described RPC method. The non-serving sectors are assigned to different groups (Group 1 and Group 2 ~~in FIG. 14~~) in accordance to their filtered RPC mean and T1_RPC, T2_RPC. The AT first ascertains those non-serving sectors that belong to Group 1. If at least one of the non-serving belong to Group 1, the AT re-points the DRC to the sector from this group with the highest credits. If none of the non-serving sectors belong to Group 1, the AT ascertains those non-serving sectors that belong to Group 2. If at least one of the non-serving belong to Group 2, the AT re-points the DRC to the sector from this group with the highest credits. In accordance with one embodiment, if two or more non-serving sectors have equal credits, a sector with the highest quality reverse link is selected. If none of the non-serving sectors belongs to either group, the AT continues pointing its DRC to the current serving sector.

One skilled in the art recognizes that the assignment to different groups has been described as a concept for pedagogical purposes. In an implementation in accordance with one embodiment, the "assignment" occurs as the filtered RPC mean of each sector is evaluated. The combined Message Based DRC Lock and filtered RPC method is described in details below.

On page 36, paragraph [1168], with the following paragraph:

In step **1518**, the DRC erasure rate is compared to the DRC_Erasure_Th1. If the DRC erasure rate is less than the DRC_Erasure_Th1, the method continues in step [[**1522**]] <u>**1524**</u>, otherwise, the method continues in step [[**1524**]] <u>**1522**</u>.

On page 37, paragraph [1175], with the following paragraph:

Similarly, the Credit Accumulation phase is carried out according to FIG. 10 and accompanying text with the following modification. In step [[**504**]] <u>**1004**</u>, the filtered RPC mean ~~(F_RPC_mean)~~ <u>(RPC_mean)</u> identified by the variable Count is updated. As described, the filtered RPC mean is obtained by filtering received RPC bits by a filter with a pre-determined time constant. Referring to FIG. 14, if the filtered RPC mean fluctuates around the T2_RPC, the sector classification between B1, C1 and B2, C2 changes rapidly, which increases likelihood that a sector, which belongs to B2, C2 is classified as B1, C1 and vice versa. Because the forward link throughput is negatively affected by incorrect classification, in accordance with one embodiment, the transition between the between B1, C1 and B2, C2 is controlled. This can be accomplished, for example, by generating the filtered RPC mean using different time constants for sectors in B1, C1 and B2, C2. Consequently, in accordance with another embodiment, the time constant for sectors in B1, C1 is smaller than the time constant for sectors in [[and]] B2, C2, which results in a contraction of regions B and C without delaying transition from Group 1 to 2.

Beginning on page 37, paragraph [1176], with the following paragraph:

To carry out the decision to re-point, the AT first ascertains those non-serving sectors that have credits greater than or equal to a ~~per determined~~ <u>pre-determined</u> threshold (NS_Th). In accordance with one embodiment, the pre-determined threshold is equal to a fraction of the Soft/Softer handoff delay. If at least one of the non-serving sectors satisfies this condition, the

AT re-points the DRC to the sector with the highest credits. In accordance with one embodiment, if two or more non-serving sectors have equal credits, a sector with the highest quality reverse link is selected. The quality of the reverse link is determined in accordance with the reverse link's filtered RPC mean. In another embodiment, if two or more non-serving sectors have equal credits, a sector with the highest quality forward link is selected.

On page 38, paragraph [1181], with the following paragraph:

In step **1606**, the AT re-points the DRC to the candidate sector identified by the variable [[count]] Count that has the highest quality reverse link in accordance with the sector's reverse link's filtered RPC mean. Alternatively, the AT re-points the DRC to the candidate sector identified by the variable [[count]] Count that has the highest quality forward link (not shown). The method continues in step **1612**.

On page 39, paragraph [1184], with the following paragraph:

In step **1612**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 1. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ Initialization phase.

On page 37, paragraph [1185], with the following paragraph:

In step **1614**, the variable Hoff_Flag is set to 0. The method returns to the ~~Initiation~~ Initialization phase.

On page 40, paragraph [1191], with the following paragraph:

Reverse link quality metric, as measured by the Reverse Link Pilot channel SINR (Ecp/Nt), from sector 1 RL1_Ecp/Nt is 3dB lower than reverse link quality metric from sector ~~1 RL1_Ecp/Nt~~ 2 RL2_Ecp/Nt, therefore, a filtered RPC mean of RL1 = 0.9, a filtered RPC mean of RL2 is 0.1616. The corresponding DRC Erasure Rate of RL1 is 0.8, DRC Erasure Rate of RL2 is 0.1.